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# Wisconsin Prairies, etc., [ca. 1863]

John Muir

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Wisconsin

6 March

03156  
1



second appearance of Plasmodium  
 combined with Great-Testis  
 & Mass of Anterior

The oak openings of the west - when our plant  
seems most at home are neither prairie  
nor timber lands more nearly resembling  
<sup>suffrutescent</sup> ~~prairie~~ than the densely timbered regions  
of Michigan & Indiana Indeed all  
that would be required to make an acre  
of prairie in many parts of our Territory would  
be to remove some ~~wild~~ <sup>large</sup> branched oaks  
together with the ~~few~~ species of shade  
plants that live beneath them  
for nearly all of the <sup>flowers fall to the</sup> grasses seedlings  
of the prairie fall of the prairie flowers  
are present Here the soil of the opening  
the same as that of the forest doubtless  
open trees would not have been permitted  
to grow not because such a soil is incapable  
of growing oak trees but because when  
young & tender they are killed by the  
annual fires that consume the crown.



and of each sort. In the  
count each sort does exist  
there we invariably have

little inland prairie one of several  
series is by one of northern plains  
should change as a piece of same  
shape & size it would not  
be possible to detect them.

Change for exactly the same  
<sup>plants</sup>  
 vegetation apparent in the same  
 number & species in both

Before in these Corky small 2<sup>nd</sup> &  
shells across from their water  
grains & the young mother duck  
was in the water & found up more

and Canyon shoots every spring with  
broad oblong confident leaves  
but again the pin blade cuts this  
tender black & drives every vestige  
life back into the ground. The  
same battle is fought year by  
year the young oaks increase  
in size all the while & expand  
at the surface of the ground into  
a hard broad gnarled disc  
like the lobed edges of the Geography.  
These are well known to the  
settlers in improving the lands  
and are called grates. This annual

Cropping of tall the young trees & bushes  
all thing were quite <sup>in</sup> the  
freedom of growth & present opening  
their orchard-like appearance of  
prairie vegetation for the time being  
sparse they live in light & are thus  
enabled to adopt their natural



broad apple tree form of growth  
When however the soil is very  
poor & unable to produce much  
grass the fire cannot go there  
hence groves of scrub oak  
Again on the cool moist north  
sides of hills adapted to the growth  
of hardy stony branching shrubs  
the fire proceeds with difficulty  
& the trees are more numerous  
Still I rise on smooth shafts to  
seek the light with a small crown  
of leaves nothing can exceed the  
compliments of that deep decoloration  
when the grass is dry which is  
spread over these oak openings  
There is sadness here in addition  
when leaves lose their living green  
& fall & when one by one the drooping  
of the last of the branches, when the  
trees cease to grow & lose their emerald  
green when that glossy sheen

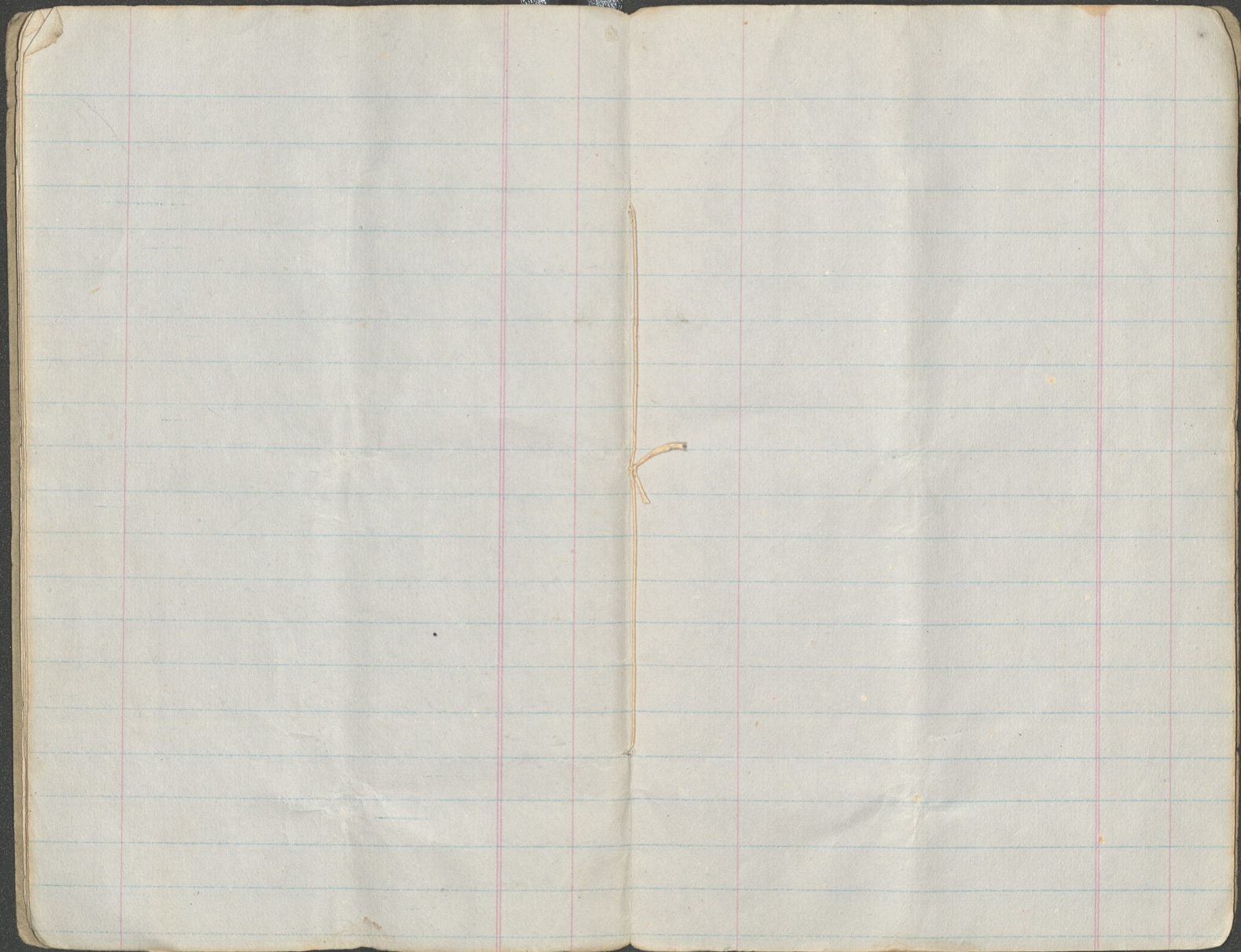
and outside bark is gone

of the grass & the edges of the leaves  
are fallen & broken & the summer air  
takes leave with the grass & the  
touching every leaf is far & all  
as the hard windy winter trees burst  
the few last clinging leaves are  
shattered in the dense tender  
snows & the dead  
but the dead trees are far greater  
when the winter of fire has passed  
though the grass is blackened  
& dead not a single leaf is left  
as the trees are charred  
and black as they killed as we  
ought the charred bones of the  
grass & the edges are crisp  
hard & brittle & the  
a little snow is still here  
the sight of our explanation we say  
with much satisfaction again











20 per cent  
9 " "

Fugate-Boys Part of  
tree and plant in soil  
not beautiful

Barnet writes not says  
It is diff<sup>c</sup> to distinguish  
a cat from a wee tree

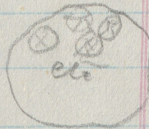
Mexico country of Orchids

Prof Chas Martins

Says in journey to North  
that some flowers seemed  
a cross between France  
thrown at Candover  
in the midst of Barren reg<sup>n</sup>

Of others at North Cape

They seemed to be ex-  
posed & appeared to  
this black rock to be  
beaten by the waves



Little to be seen



Lake Mich 578 above sea

W. is postage 223 " Lake M.

Miss W. at Ordway's 644 above L.M.

Marble Rock

Lawn of Sept

Lloyd Co  
Lawn

Rising of horses



